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ABSTRACT

This transcript of and guide to a two-cassette course designed to assist Vietnamese immigrants in erasure of their foreign accents can be used for either individual or group study. Narrative and taped demonstrations of American English that pinpoint typical phonological barriers and pronunciation difficulties are outlined. The author's own system of pronunciation symbols is used. (MSE)

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HOW TO SPEAK STANDARD AMERICAN ENGLISH WITHOUT A FOREIGN ACCENT.

VIETNAMESE EDITION

Jack Catran

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JACK CATRAN

LÀM SAO NÓI TIẾNG MỸ KHÔNG NGỌNG

Phụ Đề Việt Ngữ

HOW TO SPEAK STANDARD AMERICAN ENGLISH WITHOUT A FOREIGN ACCENT

A HENRY HIGGINS PRODUCTION

This is not another book on "English for the Foreign Born" or "English as a Second Language"

IT IS

● AN INTENSIVE COURSE IN ACCENT ERASURE ●

A powerful and effective audio-visual tool designed to be used by those millions of new Americans seeking to rid their speech of

FOREIGN ACCENTS

VIETNAMESE

JACK CATRAN

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64-87-029

Pygmalion Books — *an imprint of*
JADE PUBLICATIONS
Box 5567, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door.

Emma Lazarus
The Statue of Liberty

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NGƯỜI VIỆT NOÍ TIẾNG MỸ

Cuốn sách này sẽ giúp bạn tự hiểu giọng Mỹ của mình và từ đó bạn sẽ tự sửa lấy. Những âm mà phần đông người Việt nào cũng đọc sai sẽ được đề cập đến trong cassette. Đó là những âm tiếng Việt mà người Việt dùng để nói tiếng Mỹ và những âm tiếng Mỹ mà người Việt chưa hề nghe. Ngoài ra một số âm người Việt và người Mỹ đều có thì rất dễ cho người Việt phát âm một cách hoàn toàn đúng. Sau khi nghe và phát âm đúng những âm Mỹ, sách cuũng đề cập đến những luật căn bản của điệu và nhạc khi nói tiếng Mỹ. Sau đây là các phần chính trong sách:

Phần 1. Đề cập đến mẫu tự của tiếng Mỹ, các phụ âm, nguyên âm, và các âm khác nhau cho mỗi nguyên âm. Các thí dụ đã được kèm theo với các chữ thông dụng bằng tiếng Việt lẫn tiếng Mỹ. Nếu âm không cótrong tiếng Việt thì sẽ bỏ trống. Các bạn nên nghe cassette nhiều lần để có thể nhận được ra những âm không có trong tiếng Việt.

Phần 1 này cũng nhấn mạnh những lỗi lầm của người Việt nói tiếng Mỹ bằng giọng Việt, để các bạn chú ý mà sửa đổi hơn. Các lỗi lầm này nếu vượt được sẽ giúp các bạn cải tiến giọng nói tiếng Mỹ của mình rất là lớn lao. Một thí dụ điển hình là người Việt nói tiếng Mỹ mà quên phát âm những phụ âm ở cuối mỗi chữ. Đối với người Việt có lẽ không quan hệ mấy, nhưng đối với người Mỹ thì thật là phức tạp vì rất nhiều chữ Mỹ chỉ

khác nhau bởi các phụ âm cuối, chẳng hạn như các chữ **LIE, LIGHT, LIFE**, v.v... Nếu bạn đọc các chữ này không phụ âm thì người Mỹ không hiểu ta muốn nói gì. Lỗi lầm không đọc các phụ âm ở cuối chữ là nguyên nhân của tiếng Việt đơn âm và chúng ta không bao giờ đọc phụ âm ở cuối chữ trong chữ Việt. Đây là một thí dụ điển hình, các bạn đọc hai chữ VIỆT NAM đều không phát âm T và M ở cuối mỗi chữ, nhưng nếu các bạn nhờ người Mỹ đọc hai chữ này, các bạn sẽ hiểu.

Trong phần này các phụ âm có thể thay đổi tùy theo khi chữ được đọc trong một câu hay là đọc riêng sẽ được bàn trong sách. Ngoài ra những tập quán của người Mỹ khi đọc tiếng họ ra sao sẽ được đề cập đến. Nói khác đi là người Mỹ khi đọc từng chữ có khác ít nhiều khi đọc thành câu.

Trong phần này điều quan trọng nhất là phần nguyên âm. Tiếng Mỹ có 5 nguyên âm: **A E O U I** nhưng với mỗi nguyên âm lại có nhiều cách đọc khác nhau. Riêng chữ A có tới 5-7 âm khác nhau tuỳ chữ.

Phần 2. Sau khi các bạn đã thực tập về các nguyên âm và phụ âm khác nhau của tiếng Mỹ qua giọng Việt, và hiểu được những lỗi lầm căn bản thì các bạn đã lãnh hội được một bước tiến rất lớn lao. Sau đó các bạn sẽ thực hành phát âm từng câu và từng đoạn văn. Các bạn sẽ nhận rõ là đánh vần tiếng Mỹ là một trong những lý do chính yếu làm bạn hoang mang trong vấn đề phát âm. Nguyên do là từ lâu người Phoenician có chữ viết, và mỗi chữ được dành riêng cho một âm. Khi người Greek (Hi Lạp) sửa chữ viết của người Phoenician để phù hợp với các âm của họ có, như là người Việt mình đã dùng chữ viết của

Taù để ghi lại các âm Việt từ 100 năm trước và ngày nay lại dùng mẫu tự Latin để ghi lai âm Việt. Khi người Roman (La Mã) đô hộ lại không sửã các chữ viết của người Greek để ghi lai các âm của nguoi Roman. Khi chữ viết của người Roman du nhập tới England (Nước Anh) thi sự lẫn lộn lại được thêm vào. Các chữ viết lai diễn tả nhiều thứ âm khác nhau trong các chữ khác nhau. Rồi tới lúc ngành ấn loát được phát minh thì đã có nhưng cách đánh vần khác nhau cho cùng một âm. Và ngành ấn loát đã hợp thức hóa chữ viết cho mỗi chữ nhưng không thể nào sửã được các vần thống nhất trong các chữ khác nhau. Do đó tiếng Mỹ về cách đọc và cách viết không liên lạc chặt chẽ với nhau. Thí dụ như âm **EE** trong các chữ **BELIEVE, RECEIVE, PHOEBE, AMOEBA, AEGIS, KEY**. Đó là thí dụ cho một âm với nhiều cách phát âm khác nhau. Ngược lại lai có cùng chữ mà phát âm lai khác nhau như trong các chữ **DOUGH, ENOUGH, THROUGH, COUGH**. Nhiều thí dụ sẽ được đề cập trong cuốn sách này.

Phần 3. Phần này sẽ đề cập đến tiếng Mỹ khi nói thành câu các nguyên âm lai được đọc lướt đi. Âm thay thế này người Mỹ gọi là âm **SCHWA** (âm Ơ VietNam). Nói khác đi khi đọc nguyên câu văn Mỹ các ban nên bắt chước trộn các âm schwa để thay thế cho các nguyên âm thì giọng của bạn sẽ gần với giọng Mỹ hơn. Âm schwa này được đọc là do ảnh hưởng của các phụ âm ở chung quanh và như là một điều tự nhiên khi đọc lướt từ chữ này qua chữ khác, lưỡi miệng vẫn không đủ nhanh để phát rỏ từng các nguyên âm. Đây là một điều rất quan trọng để các bạn cần lưu ý: TIẾNG MỸ ĐƯỢC ĐỌC THÀNH CÂU

CHỨ KHÔNG PHẢI LÀ ĐỌC CÁC CHỮ NỐI TIẾP NHAU. Để' dễ' hiểu là các bạn khi nói tiếng Mỹ xem một câu được phát âm liên tục như một chữ dài vậy. Chẳng hạn các bạn đọc câu **I LOVE MY COUNTRY** như là đọc chữ **ILOVEMYCOUNTRY**.

Hai luật căn bản các bạn cần nhớ khi đọc các câu tiếng Mỹ: Luật 1: Hầu hết các câu văn hoặc câu mang tính cách ra lệnh được lên giọng ở âm kế cuối. Thí dụ như câu "**this man is crazy**". Luật 2: Hầu hết các câu mang tính cách nghi ngờ hoặc câu hỏi thì được lên giọng ở âm cuối cùng. Thí dụ như "**Is she planning a trip?**"

Phần 4. Sau khi các bạn hiểu được những kiếm khuyết và đã cải thiện chúng. Đây là tới lúc các bạn cần quên đi các luật đã học được để' truyền đạt tư tưởng khi phải đọc diễn văn trước đám đông hay trong các cuộc họp. Trong phần này sách chỉ' cho bạn một vài kỹ thuật nói tự tốn không nhanh không chậm để' lôi bạn có uy. Nếu mà giọng của bạn nhanh thì` làm sao chậm lại, nếu mà giọng bạn chậm thì` nói sao cho nhanh.

Phần quan trọng nhất là diễn đạt tư tưởng mạnh mẽ và hùng hồn. Nói rõ hơn là vấn đề ăn nói liên quan mật thiết tới vấn đề muốn nói. Sách cho một thí dụ về` vấn đề kỹ thuật khoa học và cách nói để' thu hút khán giả và buộc khán giả đồng lòng với những gì` bạn nêu ra dù là trong thâm tâm khán giả hoàn toàn chống đối.

Phần 5. Đây là phần tập thể' dục cho lưỡi và miệng của bạn dẻo. Những đoạn văn với các vần tương tự để' bạn đỡ lắm lẫn và rất khó uốn lưỡi tư chữ tương tự âm. Ngay cả người MỸ cũng gặp khó khăn khi đọc các đoạn văn này mà

không vấp giọng. Đề nghị các bạn nên thuộc nằm lòng. Các bạn nên nhớ là NƠI NHỮNG GÌ MÌNH MUỐN NÓI thì tránh được vấp giọng.

Việc trau dồi giọng nói cho đúng âm Mỹ là một sự kiên nhẫn lâu dài. "Có công mài sắt có ngày nên kim". Ít nhất các bạn bỏ mỗi ngày một giờ để luyện tập. Sự kiện nhẫn sẽ được đền bù với các bạn một cách xứng đáng trong những ngày các bạn còn giao thiệp với Mỹ. Chúc các bạn kiên nhẫn.

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INTRODUCTION TO VIETNAMESE EDITION

There is a wave of immigration sweeping into the United States today, promising to equal, if not surpass, the influx that took place between the turn of the century and World War I. Millions of people, seeking a new way of life, now call the United States their home. And there is no sign that the wave will abate, as conditions appear to worsen the world over.

Yet, during my extensive experience as a specialist in dialect and accent erasure, I have sought vainly for a book or teaching aid specifically designed to help my students from Vietnam eliminate or reduce their foreign accents. To be sure, there is a vast library of source material covering such subjects as English for the foreign born, English as a second language, and numerous dictionaries of American idioms, but none, to my knowledge, have attacked, or even approached, the problem of dialect erasure.

This book is a pioneer attempt to alleviate that problem. It is written in simple English, and cast in the second person singular. Because it is aimed not only at teachers, but also directly at you, the new American, the text carefully steers clear of the phonetic symbols and "scientific" jargon of the field of linguistics.

The pronunciation symbols are my own, and anyone can understand them after a short period of orientation. One problem remains: a sprinkling of American-English sounds do not exist in a number of foreign languages. For example, the **AW** sound in the words "horse", "more", and "Paul" is unknown to the Vietnamese tongue. For this reason, it becomes necessary for you with Vietnamese accents to *hear* and learn to mimic the **AW** sound; the inflection, color, and sounds of American-English must be *heard* by those with foreign accents before they can learn to repeat and eventually adopt those characteristics in their everyday speech. The cassettes that accompany the book effectively solve that problem.

The cassettes can be used in workshops, speech clinics, and of course, by you new Americans in the privacy of your own homes. To get the most out of the material, two cassette recorders should be used, one for playing the course cassettes, the other to be used by you to compare your own speech patterns with the demonstration material.

For maximum progress, there can be no substitute for total immersion by you students in American-English. Your car radio should be on as much as possible, preferably tuned to pro - grams that feature talk. The same practice should be engaged in at home when viewing television.

There are subtleties in American-English too difficult to communicate in a book. Few Americans, for example, pronounce the word "the" correctly as **THEE**. "To" is rarely pronounced correctly as **TOO**. Rather, for "he

went to see the man", Americans tend to say **HEE WENT TUH SEE THUH MAN.** Because you new Americans conscientiously tend to concentrate your efforts on pronouncing each word in a sentence correctly, it is difficult for you, at the beginning, to adopt the American habit of stringing words together without unnaturally stressing such words as "the" and "to". Where appropriate, and if there is no risk of confusing you, the text and cassettes will clearly present both the stressed and unstressed forms of this class of word.

What is American-English? The United States used to be a country made up of many regional dialects: Boston, New York, Midwest, etc. With the advent of radio, television, and high-speed travel, those localisms are rapidly disappearing. The American-English used as a standard in this course hews as closely as possible to the English spoken by network radio and television announcers. The language is dynamic and flexible, and changes daily. I am confident that the yardstick used in the course will serve you as an effective working model in your quest for mastery of the language.

One final note: the ultimate purpose of the course is to attempt to offer a humble contribution to the noble process of integration that so typifies the cultural history of the United States. The people of the United States are the product of the richest admixture of cultures the civilized world has ever known. If I can help you, new American, to meld into, and further enrich, our heritage, then we are all on our way toward attaining the growth and maturity so

desperately required by the world, especially this world of today which is so in need of world citizens.

END OF INTRODUCTION

How to Speak English Without a Vietnamese Accent

It would have been easy to thicken this book, and lengthen the accompanying cassette, by padding it with high-sounding phrases stressing the importance to your career and social life of learning to use your vocal instrument to speak American-English authoritatively, pleasantly, and correctly.

In addition, I could have wasted your valuable time discussing the elements of speech production; respiration, phonation, resonance, and articulation; how the airstream is delivered from your lungs through the trachea to your larynx; how the process of articulation works; how language and verbal behavior evolved; etcetera.

But I deliberately avoided that approach. Instead, I shall immediately proceed to teach you how to self-monitor and self-correct your Vietnamese accent by working with the printed material and the taped demonstrations. I have little doubt that if you set aside the time required for frequent practice periods you will gradually acquire a mastery of the phonetic repertoire of American-English sounds — the vowels, consonants, and the diphthongs — along with the inflection and color of the language in your

reading, and, more important, in your everyday, spontaneous speech.

Aside from urging you to use two tape recorders — one for listening to the demo tapes, the other for recording your own speech — I can think of no other procedures for you to follow as you progress through the course, reading the lessons to follow and listening to the demo tape.

The Pronunciation Symbols Used in This Course

For our purpose, the English alphabet of 26 letters shall represent roughly 50 classes of sound. The six vowels, **a - e - i - o - u - y,** alone, or in combination, represent 20 vowel and diphthong sounds. The twenty consonants, alone, or in combination, represent 30 sounds.

Note: The symbols listed in the column titled **Our Symbol** shall serve as the alphabet of this course. *You must memorize* the sound of each one before moving on to the lessons ahead. The left hand column lists the symbols used in Webster's 2nd International Dictionary.

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VOWELS

Dict Symbol	Our Symbol	Sample Word	Vietnamese Sample Word
ŭ	UH	under, alone	ân oán
ä	AH	father, hard	pha tra`
ă	A	bad, master	me
ô	AW	ball, cough	mo
ē	EE	he, feed	mi
e	EH	get, letter	hét
â	a	care, chair	
î	i	sit, middle	
ŏ	O	pot, proper	pát
oo	OO	food, moon	xu xu
o͝o	oo	look, good	
ū	yOO	unit, eulogize	
ā	AY (EH-EE)	take, later	mê
ī	I (AH-EE)	ice, might	mai
ō	OH (UH-OO)	bone, phone	mô
û	u (UH-EE)	earth, turban	
ou	OW (AH-OO)	out, mouse	sao
oi	Oi (AW-EE)	oil, coin	môi
ă	Aee (A-EE)	thank, dangle	

The SCHWA (pronounced **SHV-AH**), sym - bolized as Σ, represents the unstressed sound found in the 2nd syllable of "China", "pencil". Also found in the unstressed "er" of "teacher" and "paper".

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CONSONANTS

Our Symbol		Sample Word	Vietnamese Sample Word
KW		quick, quite	quít
NG		sing, rang	
KSH		luxury	
Y		yes, your	
KH		loch, ach	
R		rice, run	rỉnh rang
W		wing, woman	
WH		while, when	
M		mother. mine	mai
N		never, nonsense	nào
L		letter, lovely	liên
H		hungry, honey	hủng
J	(voiced)	judge, gelatin	giỏi
CH	(unvoiced)	church, cheese	chua
G	(v)	get, go	gô ghê`
K	(unv)	cut, cat	cât´
GZ	(v)	exit, exert	
KS	(unv)	tax, exite	
ZH	(v)	azure	
SH	(unv)	she, shun	
V	(v)	vowel, vote	vở viñh
F	(unv)	frank, fort	phai' traí
TH	(v)	the, those	
th	(unv)	thin, through	
D	(v)	dim, done	đô´
T	(unv)	tin, ton	thi`
B	(v)	butter, bending	ba má
P	(unv)	putter, pending	
Z	(v)	zeal, zone	
S	(unv)	seal, sewn	son

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The following listing of both vowels and consonants represents the outstanding problems in your pronunciation of English. The right-hand column displays the very heart of your pronunciation problems; the left-hand column the keys to the solution. You will be well on your way toward the mastery of American-English as soon as you develop the habit of using the left-hand examples in your spontaneous, everyday speech.

First you will have to listen to my taped demonstration of the American sound, then practice it yourself on your own recorder until you feel that you have come close to the correct pronunciation. At the risk of appearing as though I am oversimplifying, I must remind you that *all of your vowel and consonant pronunciation problems are pointed out in the innocent-looking list to follow and the short, but intensive, tape that accompanies it.* As soon as you conquer these problems, you shall be well on your way to success. Bon Voyage!

VIETNAMESE VOWEL CHANGES

American Sound		Vietnamese Sound	
Sound	**Example**	**Sound**	**Example**
A	that	EH	D-EH-T
	manage	and	M-EH-NƩJ
	actually	AH	AH-K-CH-OL-EE
AH	father	O	FODO
	harbor		HOBO
	sharp		SOP

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AY	break	EH	BL-EH-K
(EH-EE)	take		T-EH-K
	day		D-EH
AW	caller	AH	K-AH-L-AH
	falter		F-AH-OO-T-AH
	water		W-AH-T-AH
EE	believe	I	BILIF
	feel		FIL
	people		PIP-OO
EH	bed	A	BAT
	met		MAT
	prefer		PLIF-AH
a	chair	A	CH-A-R
	bare		BAR
	care		KAR
i	pit	EE	P-EE-T
	slipper		SR-EE-P-AH
	middle		M-EE-D-OO
O	not	No change	
	proper		
	bond		
OO	spoon	oo	SΣP-oo-N
	food		F-oo-T
	stupid		SΣT-oo-P-EE-T
oo	took	OO	T-OO-K
	book		B-OO-K
	cooker		K-OO-K-AH
yOO	pure	No change	
	beauty		
	cube		
UH	sofa	O	S-AW-FO
	mother		MODO
	under		ONDO
I	price	No change	
(AH-EE)	cry	(Sometimes AH, as in	
	guile	T-AH-ML-EE for "timely")	
OH	stone	AW	SΣT-AW-N
(UH-OO)	motor		M-AW-T-AH
	both		B-AW-T

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u	earth	UH	UH-T
(UH-EE)	purple		P-UH-P-OO
	furnish		F-UH-NIS
OW	scout	AH	S-UH-K-AH-T
(AH-OO)	mountain		M-AH-NƩTIN
	doubtful		D-AH-F-OO
OI	oil	AH-I	AH-yOO
(AW-EE)	enjoy		AH-N-AH-J-AH-I
	loiter		L-AH-YIT-AH
Aee	bank	EH-I	B-EH-INIK
(A-EE)	thank		T-EH-INIK
	ankle		EH-IN-AH-K-OO

VIETNAMESE CONSONANT CHANGES

TH— You tend to confuse this sound with the **D** sound. The simple way to produce the **TH** is to stick the tip of your tongue out between your teeth and force air through your mouth while humming. This sound is *voiced.*

th— This important sound, heard in the words "thumb", "three" and "thoughtful" is often replaced by a **T** sound in the Vietnamese accent. Sometimes you replace it with an **L** sound, as in **L-OH-S** for "those", or an **S**, as in **S-AH-SƩNS** for "thousands". To produce the **th**, perform the same operations described above for producing the **TH** sound, but this time do not hum while expelling air. This sound is *unvoiced.*

D— This sound is often deleted by you in words such as **AH-R-AH-OO-N** for "around". Or it is replaced by an **S** in words indicating past tense, such as

"suffered", which you change into **S-AH-F-AH-S**, or "huddled" which transforms into **H-AH-D-OW-S.**

R— Despite the notion that the Vietnamese love to substitute **L** for **R**, some of you pronounce the **R** gutturally, as the Germans do. Most of you, however, substitute a sound resembling **L**, as in **F-UH-L-AW-S**, for "frost", but it is not a pure **L**. The final "er" ("teacher", "paper", etc.) is usually mispronounced **AH**, as in **Ti-CH-AH, P-EH-P-AH.** It's **BR-AY-K**, not **BL-EH-K**, for "break", and **KRI**, not **KLI**, for "cry". It's **PR-Aee-NKS**, not **PL-EH-iNKS**, for "pranks". It's **yOO-RΣP**, not **yOO-L-UH-P**, for "Eurpoe".

L— For understandable reasons, before and after certain consonants, you are able to produce a perfect **R** when you're supposed to sound an **L**, and an exquisite **L** when an **R** sound is called for (see **R** discussion above). So you can be optimistic about your ability to at least generate the sounds of **L** and **R**; your only problem seems to be to know where and how it should be used. You often delete it entirely at the end of some words, such as **M-OH-N-EE-SP-OH** for "municipal"; **SΣK-OO** for "school"; **AH-yOO** for "oil"; **P-UH-P-OO** for "purple"; **D-OW-F-OO** for "doubtful". Examples of **R/L** confusion after certain consonants, occurs in words such as **SPR-AH-SH** for "splash", **PR-AH-ST-EE-K** for "plastic", **AW-Fi-SH-AHS** for "officials". Some Vietnam-

ese find the word "umbrella" almost impossible to pronounce clearly. Repeat after me: **UH-MBR-EH-LΣ, UH-MBR-EH-LΣ, UH-MBR-EH-LΣ.**

V— Don't ever drop the **V** sound in sentences such as the ungrammatic "It gives for everybody", which you tend to sound as **EE-T G-EE F-AH EH-V-EE-BOD-EE.** Although gramatically incorrect, it should be pronounced: **iT GiVZ F-AW-R EH-VR-EE-BOD-EE.** The **V** is a difficult sound for you to utter in certain positions. It's not **HA BiN**, its **HAV BiN**, for "have been". It's not **FI S-EH-N** — it's **FIV S-EH-NTS**, for "five cents".

T— DON'T DROP YOUR **T** SOUNDS! It's not **D-AH S-OW-N** for "That sound". Don't say **L-EH-S EE** when you mean "Let's see". Your accent is VieTnamese, not **VY-EH-N-AH-M-EE. PR-EH-SD-EH-N** of the United States do not live in the **WI H-AH-S**; Presidents of the United States live in the White House. And, finally, don't use the **T** when you mean **D**, as in **B-EH-T** for "bed".

F— This sound is often deleted when it appears in the middle of a word, as in **G-OH AH-T-AH Mi** for "Go after me." Remember to say **G-OH AFTΣR M-EE.**

NG— Words ending in **NG** are usually pronounced with the final **G** missing, as in **SiN** for "sing", **T-AH-N** for "tongue", and **RiN** for "ring".

X— A difficult sound for Vietnamese, as in the **KS** sound of **X**. Example: in the word **EH-S-AH-S-AH-S**, for "exercise" you tend to drop the **K** completely. It's **EH-KSΣRSIZ**. In the **GZ** sound of **X**, as in the words "examine" and "example", you tend to drop the **G**, pronouncing them as **EH-S-EH-MiN** and **EH-S-EH-MP-OO**. It's **EH-GZAMiN** and **EH-GZAMPΣL**.

SH and **CH**—The **S** sound is often used instead of the **SH**, as in **S-AH-NS-AH-N** for "sunshine". It's **S-UH-N-SH-IN**. The **TS** sound often replaces a proper **CH**, in words such as **TS-AH-iN-AH** (the second syllable of the word China is a SCHWA).

Z— Here again you use an easy, convenient **S** sound in place of a **Z**, as in **SiBR-AH** for "zebra". It's **Z-EE-BR-UH**.

PRACTICE WORDS

fortune — not F-AW-CH-OO-N — **F-AW-R-CH-ΣN**
South Vietnam—not S-OW VY-EH-N-AH-M—**S-OW-th-VY-EH-TNAM**
jade — not J-EH-D — **J-AY-D**
miles — not MIS — **MILZ**
population — not P-AH-PL-AY-SHΣN — **POP-yOO-L-AY-SH-ΣN**
culture — not K-OH-CH-ΣR — **K-UH-L-CH-ΣR**
speak loudly — not SPiK L-OW — **SP-EE-K L-OW-DL-EE**
help — not H-OW-P — **H-EH-LP**

boldface — not B-OH-F-AY-S —
B-OH-LDF-AY-S
similar — not S-EE-M-EE-L-AH —
SiMiLΣR
then — not TH-EH-ND — **TH-EH-N**
alone — not AH-L-OH-ND — **ΣL-OH-N**
wolf — not W-OO-F — **W-oo-LF**
cry — not KLI — **KRI**
doubtful — not D-OW-F-OO —
D-OW-TF-oo-L
enjoy — not EH-NJI — **EH-NJ-Oi**
timely — not T-AH-MLi — **TIML-EE**
municipal — not M-OH-N-EE-SP-OH —
M-yOO-NiSiPΣL
Bill Bailey — not BYiL B-EH-L-EE —
BiL B-AY-L-EE
have been — not HA BiN — **HAV BiN**
slippers — not SL-EE-P-AH-S —
SLiPΣRZ
officials — not AW-Fi-SH-AH-S —
AW-Fi-SH-ΣLZ
Europe — not yOO-L-UH-P —
yOO-RΣP
middle — not M-EE-D-OO — **MiDL**
for — not F-AH — **F-AW-R**
this — not D-EE-S — **TH-iS**
prank — not PL-Aee-NK —
PR-Aee-NK
wept — not WAPT — **W-EH-PT**
Vice President — not VI PR-EH-SD-EH-N
— **VIS PR-EH-SiD-EH-NT**
thousands — not S-AH-SΣNS —
th-OW-Z-EH-NDZ
China — not TS-AH-iN-AH — **CH-INΣ**
exercise — not EH-S-AH-S-AH-S —
EH-KSΣRSIZ

examine — not EH-S-EH-MiN — **EH-GZAMiN**

please — not PR-EE-S — **PL-EE-Z**
(Though there is no vowel between the **P** and the **L**, if we insert a quickly-sounded **i**, the word becomes easier for Vietnamese speakers to pronounce. Try **PiL-EE-Z.**)

sleek — not SR-EE-K — **SL-EE-K**
(If difficult, try **SiL-EE-K.**)

plastic — not PR-AH-ST-EE-K — **PLASTiK** (Try **PiLASTiK.**)

prolific — not PL-OH-R-EE-FiK — **PR-OH-LiFiK**

clinic — not KRiNiK — **KLiNiK**
(Try **K-UH-LiNiK.**)

platinum — not PR-AH-T-EE-N-AH-M — **PLATiNΣM**

fried rice — not FLI LIS — **F-RID RIS**

aluminum — not AH-R-OO-MN-AH-M — **ΣL-OO-MiNΣM**

essential — not AH-S-EH-N-SH-OW — **EH-S-EH-N-SH-ΣL**

ounces — not AH-NS-AH-S — **OW-NSΣZ** (Try **AH-OO-NSΣZ.**)

millions — not M-EE-Y-AH-NS — **MiLYΣNZ**

oil — not Oi-yOO — **Oi-L**

tongue — not T-AH-N — **T-UH-NG**

water — not W-AH-T-AH — **W-AW-TΣR**

stupid — not S-UH-T-OO-PiT — **ST-OO-PiD**

sofa — not S-AW-F-AH — **S-OH-FΣ**

stone — not S-UH-T-AW-N — **ST-OH-N**

chatter — not TS-EH-T-AH —
CH-A-TΣR

MORE WORDS

HOBO M-AW TIM — have more time
D-EE — the
DOT — that
H-OW-P — help
AW-R-EE-EH-NT-AH — Oriental
AVR-EE — every
MOK — mark
ONT-EE-OO — until
AND — end
/ONDO — under
W-EE D-OO HOB D-AH S-OW-N — we do have that sound
B-AH-L —ball
GAT —get
M-EE-D-OO —middle
UH-T — earth
/UH-KS-UH-R-EE — luxury
MAJO — measure
DYiM — dim
DiS N-EE-AH T-OO D-AH S-OW — close to the South
TR-EE —three
VY-EH-N-AH-M-EE — Vietnamese
MI HOB — might have
SK-EE-P-EE-N — skipping
EH-KSTR-AH S-OW-NS — extra sounds
BiL B-EH-L-EE — Bill Bailey
L-EH-T-AH — later
S-EH-L-EE-N — sailing
T-EH-L — tale

WAPT — wept
R-AY WAPT AS D-AH BA-OO T-OH-D EE-S B-OW-F-OO N-OO-S — Ray wept as the bell tolled its baleful news
BAD B-Oi WAN T-OO BAD — Bad boy went to bed
LAD — led
PR-OH-N-OW-S — pronounce
W-EH-SL-AH — wrestler
S-UH-FΣ — suffered
D-EE-S WON — this one
H-EE-S— his
T-OO-RiS — tourists
H-UH-DLS— huddled
P-AW-PL-AY-SH-AH-N— population
K-OH-CH-AH— culture
HOB-AH M-EH-N-EE PROBROMS— have many problems
SPiK L-OW— speak loudly
OK-CH-O-L-EE — actually
D-OH-SΣN— dozen
B-OW-F-AY-S— boldface
K-OW-CH-AH— culture
FI M-EE-Y-AH-N— 5 million

Now that we are aware of our *trouble spots*, let us begin to apply what we've learned. After a few practice sessions, you will learn to imitate the correct sounds of the following sentences, slowly, but correctly. Your next step toward success will come when you begin to self-monitor and self-correct your spontaneous speech in your daily interrelationships with other English speakers.

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After a period of time — which varies with different students — you will arrive at your final goal: the automatic, self-correcting production of standard American-English, as you automatically (without seeming effort) monitor and self-correct your everyday speech.

Please read each of the following sentences aloud, one at a time, after listening carefully to the tape demonstration. Stop the tape after each sentence, and practice until you feel you have come close to correct pronunciation. Then record both my version and yours on your own tape recorder. You now have a record of your progress up to this point.

Later, repeat my recitations, this time without reading the text. When you have attained a fair degree of fidelity, memorize and recite some of the sentences to your family and friends. You will be pleasantly surprised at their response, which should further reinforce your new habits of speech. Remember, we must be patient and allow time to pass. Eventually you will find your new habits spreading to formerly-unfamiliar words.

VOWEL EXERCISES

This lesson should be practiced and practiced until you have considerably narrowed the difference between your recitation and mine.

AY (EH-EE)

That jewel is not jade — it's fake. It's only painted that color.

It's shameful to place the blame on Mame.

Kay weighed the paint before making the sale.

Headaches and backaches and earaches and toothaches can cause much pain.

The parade turned out to be an insane charade.

Dave and Mabel took a plane from Maine to the Ukraine.

The renegades on the barricade slaked their thirst with pails of orangeade and lemonade.

Waiter! Take away this pastry. You may change it for a plate of plain date cake.

AH

The Taj Mahal is not located in Guam or Iran **(EE-R-AH-N)**

There are few skylarks and woodlarks in Denmark.

If you begin your journey in Washington, D.C., you can hardly miss Panama on the way to Bogotá.

Kindhearted, chicken-hearted, broken-hearted Martin bartered a Bartlett pear for Charlie's dark barley.

A

The dancing master ran to Mack's stand for a ham sandwich.

The bad man sat on my black hat, so I grabbed his tan cap and ran.

The diplomat dispatched to Leningrad was an osteopath from Vietnam.

The next Olympiad featuring orangutan track events could take place in Yucatán, Pakistan, or Afghanistan.

Diana and Hannah exported their Havana bananas to Montana, Louisiana, Indiana, and Guiana.

AW

Morse, the lovelorn Norse, played a French horn on the North rim of the Matterhorn.

Four haughty horses and a naughty Macaw were born in a Montreal hallway during and awful thunderstorm.

Mortimer drank alcohol and water highballs at the free-for-all softball game.

Archibald crawled and called from the stone-walled vault.

EE

Apathy, empathy, sympathy, and dyspathy were each bittersweetly displayed by the evil King Lear.

Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Pekinese, and Burmese are as different from each other as Portuguese is from Singhalese.

Marguerite treated Peter to discreet meals of buckwheat,mincemeat, and sweetmeats.

EH

For breakfast she spread jelly and cheddar cheese on bread, fed Jerry, then went to bed again.

Ed met a terrible yellow leopard when he went to Anabelle's Vietnamese hotel.

Blockheads and boneheads and deadheads and hotheads fell together when Spence spread his deadly message.

yOO

Madame Curie of Munich knew that Hugh's abusive mule needed a manicure.

We must not assume that bugle-blowing Tunisians always play pure Arabic music.

Nude, beautiful Eunice played the ukulele in her new costume while traveling from New York to the Ukraine.

O

Scott jogged and plodded in his sloppy togs through the hot Bronx streets.

Suzy Wong hobbled through the honky-tonks of Hong Kong looking for Scott, her mah-jongg partner.

Doc knocked the bottle of Scotch off the ice-box shelf and mixed himself a hot toddy.

∞

The swift-footed crook hooked the wooden cookbook.

A good-looking Chinook woman put a cookie in her pocketbook.

I relaized, after I took a good look, that I should have stood firm.

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I

Jump in quickly while I give you a lift to Vilna.

Tim ripped the skin on his shin when he slid down the hill.

The winebibbing Gypsy grinned as he sipped a bit of sticky gin.

Bill implied that English was a rich source of silly idioms.

Mrs. Wiggs of Brazil nipped the infant's bib after the strong-willed shrimp dribbled his milk all over his crib.

OO

Lewis missed his tutor at school because his tooth was loose.

Luther claimed that Boole was too poor to attend Santa Cruz College.

Rube Bloomberg concluded that Calhoun was too poor to own a bassoon.

There is no sight loonier than a balloonful of prune-fed baboons spooning under the moon.

UH

Uncle munched a bunch on onions as he scrunched under Gunther's umbrella.

The sun comes up like thunder once a month in Tundra country.

I hunger for those seductive Hungarian Sunday suppers that Mother once served.

33

Those who study voltage and currents understand the meanings of the terms "inductance", "conductance", and "reluctance".

I (AH-EE)

Clyde tried to fight his way through nine miles of senile reptiles on the Nile.

Simon denied that there will be pie in the sky when he dies.

OH (UH-OO)

Zola Cohen munched on a smoked Polish sausage and Gorgonzola while bowling in Pensacola.

Rhoda Dolan dozed while rowing her boat in the ferocious, precocious ocean.

Viola O'Neill broke her crayola while holding a bowl full of baloney and macaroni.

u (UH-EE)

The purple turban was purchased by a Persian merchant for thirty pearls.

Bert learned that he earned more in Lucerne than Gert did in Berne.

I have heard that all birth, from cutworms to pachyderms, returns to the earth.

OW (AH-OO)

In an hour, Howard, the loudmouthed scout with the gout, will return to the clubhouse.

Sam Howe clowned on the crowded Greyhound bus from Foochow to Moscow.

I was dumbfounded and astounded as I watched the proud scow run aground loaded with flounders.

Oi (AW-EE)

Roy parboiled, soft-boiled, and hard-boiled the eggs in a wok full of soy oil.

Boyle pointed out the Rolls Royce that Joyce foisted on the boy from Illinois.

Batboys, cowboys, and playboys are to be found among the hoi polloi of Troy and Des Moines.

Aee (A-EE)

Frank, the mountebank, handed Hank a blank check.

You may deposit your francs at the swanky savings bank on the riverbank.

The pranky crank was spanked by the lanky Yank on the shank of the clanky gangplank.

a

Mr. Dare bought a pair of rare mares.

Carefree David planned an airplane trip to Delaware.

Mabel brushed her hair, grabbed a pair of pants, paid her fare, and prepared to travel to we know not where.

Let us review the sounds of American-English once again — first a few difficult vowels, then some troublesome consonants, singly and

combined — this time in more detail. Please repeat each recitation after me, in the silent spaces I have provided. Record both your version and mine. When you are through, compare the two. *Do not proceed with the course until you are satisfied with your performance.*

AY as in	jade paint lemonade
AH	wash barter start
A	bad black sandwich
AW	horn crawl stonewall
EE	feeling, leaving, believe
a	prepare, fairgrounds, airplane
I	until, knit, risk
O	constant, propaganda, politics
oo	would, book, Hollywood
yOO	uniform, beautiful, computer
EH	leopard bread together
OO	school bassoon prune
UH	thunder Hungarian supper
I(AH-EE)	reptile Simon senile
OH (UH-OO)	smoke precocious doze
u (UH-EE)	purple learn birth
OW(AH-OO)	clubhouse proud flounder
OI(AW-EE)	parboil Illinois pointed
Aee (A-EE)	blank spank cranky

Now for the consonants:

FL	flutter Florida flood
BL	bland blood problem
PL	plaster pleasant explode
SL	sleek slander reslotted
L	let, mellow, milk
P	pull petal perfect
PR	practice pronounce precedent
CL	clean clinic nuclear
TR	train transfer attract
Fyoo	fewer futile fumigate
Lyoo	aluminum allude luminous
TH	those that this
th	earth thin throw
H	herringbone, hold, helpless
J	agile, Jackson, jump
Q	quote, quite, quickly
S	cigar, sunshine, steel
V	Vietnam, violet, vinegar
W	wagon, world, wisdom
CH	China child cheese
Tyoo	Tuesday substitute attune
SH	essential insatiable initial
BR	brilliant library February
NG	sing tongue Hong Kong

B	stab fib hub
D	broad bladder sound
K	exercise axiom acclaim
N	neat, near, name
R	frost teacher impress
T	fast assort blast
GZ	exert examine exactly
Z	zebra zoologist easy

VOWEL DIFFERENTIATION

The **A** sound of American-English could be quite difficult for speakers from Vietnam, who tend to pronounce it as **EH**. In order to learn to sharply differentiate between the two, it is important that you repeat the following word pairs, and the sentences that follow, after me, carefully comparing your pronunciation with mine. I shall provide a silent space between each recitation so that you can repeat and compare.

bed	bad	kettle	cattle
Meg	mag	wreck	rack
Rhett	rat	pest	past
Edison	Addison	fester	faster
pen	pan	peck	pack
neck	knack	lest	last
Beth	bath	Becker	backer

Rhett was the pest who sat on Addison's neck.

The bad boy slept in Harry's bed.

Edison invented the gramaphone, not the telegraph.

Tell Jerry that Hal can't pack his medicine.

Max and Meg snacked on black bread and eggs.

Crafty Ben zigzagged to the edge of the craggy flat.

Queen Mab bagged a cab to French Quebec.

Abraham the rebel tracked Ed to a Halifax cul-de-sac.

Celeste and Cal spent the weekend in Trinidad and Leningrad.

The following vowel differentiation exercise will cure your tendency to confuse OO with oo.

look	Luke	wood	wooed
full	fool	could	cooed
pull	pool	bull	Boole
soot	suit	hood	who'd
should	shoe'd	cookie	kooky

Look Luke! Don't put your foot in the woman's boot.

The rueful fools drank their full of the good soup.

Let's pull the crooked poodle out of the nudist's pool.

Buddhists should shoe their pussy-footed hooves in the Yankee Doodle room.

The Chinook woman could coo like a furious pullet.

Luther claimed that Boole's law was full of bull.

Tootsie Bloomberg was the hood who'd concluded that his couscous was cooked.

Kooky kangaroo cookies crumble crudely.

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The **i** sound of American-English could be quite difficult for speakers from Vietnam, who tend to pronounce it as **EE**. And conversely, **EE** is often mispronounced as **i**. In order to learn to sharply differentiate between the two, it is important that you repeat the following word-pairs, and the sentences that follow, after me.

team	tim	sheen	shin
Jean	gin	bleep	blip
ease	is	each	itch
reek	Rick	teal	till
ream	rim	seal	sill
cheat	chit	heed	hid
leave	live	feet	fit
eel	ill	eat	it
peach	pitch	beat	bit
meat	knit	seat	sit

Tim's team eked out a slim victory.

Jean keeps her gin in Pete Smith's bin.

Peter eases his itch with Gleason's pills.

Rick's kitchen reeks with inedible leeks.

We can fix each tire by reaming the rim.

Would it be cheating if I treated the chit cheaply?

I intend to begin living when I leave this evening.

Never eat an ill eel.

Peter imbibed a pitcher of peach juice.

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Imogene's knitting is easily the neatest in the institute.

See the sheen on Chip's oiled shins.

The bleeps will be indicated by instant blips on the video screen.

Beatrice wheezes with discomfort each time her skin itches.

The green-winged teal drifted on the river till feeding time.

The window sill was sealed with wheat filler.

Please heed his bid to remain hidden.

Be sure that the shoe fits your feet.

It remains to be seen if the beans will be eaten.

Fields was beaten bit by bit by Reese's skillful hitting.

Phillip would not sit in the cheaper seats.

The phrases to follow are clearly absurd and nonsensical. Repeat after me, line for line:

Be oblong, be bloated, be blase.

Be tasteless, be rude, be multitudinous.

Live in a swamp and be three-dimensional.

Go into a coffeeroom closet and suck eggs.

Now let us practice differentiating between **OH** and **AW**. Repeat these sentences after me:

Moribund gophers ride baroque horses.

Morton, the phoney saxaphonist, poured water into his baritone horn.

Will the folks in the auditorium please focus their eyes on Horace?

* * * * * * *

If you have been carefully monitoring yourself up to this point in the course, your spontaneous speech, as well as your studied readings, should be showing a vast improvement. If not, I would suggest that you stop at this point and review. Do not proceed until you sound almost letter-perfect to your ear, then continue to move forward by repeating the immortal words of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address after me, piece-by-piece. I shall recite it through once, then piece-by-piece for you to repeat. After three or four recitations, please do your best to memorize the entire speech. It is not as difficult as it may appear.

The Gettysburg Address was delivered by Abraham Lincoln on November 19, 1863 at the dedication of the national cemetery on the Civil War battlefield of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great Civil War, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate — we can not consecrate — we can not hallow — this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little

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note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Now, I want you to listen to, and repeat, each segment of the speech after me. Note that I shall lay special stress on the possible problem areas as italicized in the text. Do not move on until you have thoroughly practiced each segment. Then recite the whole address from memory until you are satisfied. Record your final, polished version.

Note: I have underlined your problem words.

Segment 1: Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great Civil War, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war.

Segment 2: We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who

here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate — we can not consecrate — we can not hallow — this ground.

Segment 3: The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.

Segment 4: It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain

Segment 5: — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

* * * * * * *

English spelling, you must know by know, is one of the main reasons for your confusion in the production of American speech sounds. Why? Many years ago the Phoenicians devised a written alphabet that represented all of the sounds

of their language. One symbol stood for one sound, and no other.

The Greeks modified the Phoenician alphabet to fit their own language. Then the Romans took it over, but failed to modify the Greek alphabet to represent Roman speech. When the Roman alphabet reached England, there was still more confusion added, with the written alphabet representing the sounds of speech even less than it did under the Roman. Up to the time of the invention of printing, there was a large degree of variation permitted in the spelling, but the widespread use of print finally standardized the spelling of words.

By this time, written English bore little relationship to the sounds of the language. Let us examine a small portion of the illogic that we have inherited today. For example: The sound of **EE** in "believe", "receive", "Phoebe", "amoeba", "aegis", "key", and in the word "quay" (pronounced **K-EE**). Those words present a good example of a single sound, **EE**, represented by a variety of spellings.

Another example is offered in the spelling of words ending in the letters *o-u-g-h*, as in "dough", "enough", "through", "cough", each sounded differently. How about the **SH** in "sure", "ocean", "station", "Charlotte"? Or the letters that are never sounded, as the **B** in "thumb", the **P** in "pneumonia", the **G** in "phlegm", the **L** in "talk", the **K** in "knave", the **T** in "often", and all those **E**'s in words such as "love", "make", "store", etc.?

I could go on and on with the homonyms — words that are spelled differently but pronounced

the same — for example: "bear" and "bare", and the words spelled the same but pronounced differently, as in "tear" (cry) and "tear" (rip), and "read" (present) and "read" (past).

Notice, also, the way the sound of the letter *a* changes in the following words: "bare", "large", "woman", "bat", "rage", and "fall". Look at the strange variation of *s* which sometimes sounds like **S** and other times **Z** as in "easy" (**Z**), "pass" (**S**), "bags" (**Z**) "his" (**Z**), "us" (**S**). All of the illogic and inconsistencies of American English will become less confusing to you as you continue to speak and practice, and use the language in your daily business and social life.

Here are some practice words contrasted with words that are often confused with it. Repeat each pair after me, in the silent space I have allowed. Compare your sound with mine, and keep practicing until perfect. Or as close to perfect as you can come.

cub	cob (AH)	mud	mod (O)
bus	boss (AW)	tut	tot (O)
gun	gone (AH)	sub	sob (AH)
won	wan (AH)	cup	cop (O)
	fun fawn (AW)		

The following is the **UH** sound as it appears in the initial, the medial, and the final position of a few words:

1st syllable	2nd syllable	3rd syllable
affair	able	medium
account	animal	develop
lunch	human	betrayal

supper	soften	Montana
again	ballad	example

* * * * *

The following combines a number of problem sounds for speakers from Vietnam. I will read the whole thing through. Then you must replay my recitation at least three times, each time repeating after me. Please memorize the short piece and recite it out loud to yourself and others, until you (and, of course, *they)* are satisfied with your recitation.

When I was (Z) young (UH), I pitied (i) the old. Now old (OH), It is the young I pity (i).

In his eighty-eighth year, Dr. Vo Pham is (Z) even more energetic and vital than he was at 56, when he first began to enrich (i) my life.

He continues (Σ) to write and teach and lecture. Although he has long since passed the mandatory (A) retirement age for professors at the college of medicine at the university, he is still there, still active. Special dispensations have been made for him, new titles invented, loopholes found. The fact (A) is that he is indispensable — an institution within (i) an institution, without which it would be dangerously diminished.

So he tears about town, making daily visits to the clinics, as he has (A) done (UH) for over sixty years; and conducts (UH) his seminars, the most popular (O) in the history of the university.

He rises (Z) at dawn each morning and goes to work on whichever of his two books in progress (O) strikes his fancy. The first is a comprehensive (O) work on experimental psychology The second, an

autobiography. During the past four years, he has made three round trips to China, and is (Z) planning another. He consults regularly with the psychiatric division of the college (O) on a long-range project involving (O) the interrelationship between psychology and physiology. He serves as mentor and invaluable friend to a variety of individuals all over the United States.

He is (Z) a perfect example of his own theories on the subject (UH) of age (J) and aging (J), life and death.

I once asked for his views on death.

"Oh, I don't mind the idea at all," he replied. "I'm quite resigned (Z) to death, but — but just not (O) today!"

Now let's talk about *reciprocal assimilation*. Please don't let that term frighten you — it simply refers to the tendency of those who speak English to reduce unstressed vowels to a barely audible schwa, or Σ, sound. In Vietnam you are taught to respect and enunciate each and every vowel; the reverse is true in English. As strange as it may sound, you will be better understood if you learn to overstress accented vowels of words and reduce the remaining vowels to a schwa.

Some good examples of that are offered by the words "attempt" (**ΣT-EH-MPT**) and "contain" (**KΣNT-AY-N**). If you carefully stressed each vowel in those words you would have said **A-TEMPT** and **K-O-NT-AY-N**, the pronunciation of which are correct, but decidedly not American-English. Reciprocal assimilation also affects consonants when they are influenced by neighboring sounds. All of this is natural, as

your organs of speech tend to take the easiest route through a word, for the purpose of saving time and energy. Say **PiK-CH-UH-R** rather than the precise **PiKTY-OO-R**; **N-AY-CH-ΣR** instead of **N-AY-TY-OO-R**; **LiT-EH-RΣ-CH-EH-R** rather than **LiT-EH-R-UH-TY-OO-R**; **EH-J-OO-K-AY-T** instead of **EH-DY-OO-K-AY-T**.

I must also emphasize that English is spoken in phrases rather than in words. And reciprocal assimilation occurs in those phrases as well as in individual words. Examples: **DiDJ-UH G-OH?** for "Did you go?" **D-OH-NCH-UH N-OH I KΣN SWiM?** for "Don't you know I can swim?" To get a feel of how Americans speak English, please repeat after me:

Did you go to the store yesterday?

Don't you realize that education is important?

If I'm moving too fast for you in the recitation of the rules of good American English, please stop to absorb and practice each rule before moving on to the following two rules which govern the music of American-English sentences:

Rule 1: Most statements and commands in English end with a downward glide of the voice on the last *accented* syllable (not the last syllable, but the last *accented* syllable). This is known as Falling Intonation: Example: "The man is *crazy*." ***CRA*** is the last accented syllable. Note how the music of the sentence falls on the ***CRA*** .

Rule 2: Most statements indicating doubt or incompleteness — especially questions — end with an upward glide of the voice on the last *accented* syllable. This is known as Rising

Intonation. Example: "Is she planning a *trip?*" ***TRIP*** is the last accented syllable. Note how the music of the sentence rises on ***TRIP***.

It appears that everything you have learned in this course regarding precise pronunciation must now be forgotten in order to master the casual sounds of standard American speech. To fully understand that point, recite the following short phrases by blending words together to form a single unit; in other words, recite each phrase as if it were a single word. While doing that, stress the italicized syllable strongly, so that the remaining vowels in the phrase fade away to almost complete obscurity.

A *won*derful life (Σ *W-UH-ND*ΣFΣLIF)

Did you *locate* it? (DiDYΣ-L-OH-K-AY-T-iT?)

***Think* of something. (th-EE-NK-ΣV S-UH-M-th-EE-NG)**

***Cash* a check. (KA-SH-Σ-CH-EH-K)**

To *kill* a mockingbird. (T-OO-KiL Σ MOK-EE-NGBuRD)

Repeat each of the following quotations, taken from my book *"Is There Intelligent Life on Earth?"*, after me, in the blank spaces I have provided. Let's try for speed this time. Note where I have laid the stresses in each quotation. You may choose to stress the quotations differently. If so, please feel free to do so, and note that the intent and meaning may change with your interpretation.

All great truths begin as blasphemies.

Reflect on the works of anthropoligists, whose concern is the evolution and behavior of groups of people and cultures; their customs, mores, lifestyles, and religions. Expose your children to this subject in their early, formative years.

Inquire into the teachings of Charles Darwin. Immerse yourself in the study of your relationship to all other life forms on this planet. Learn how we originated, how we developed, how the selection process works, and about the process of mutations.

There has never been a planned city in the history of our planet, but public interest in the field is increasing daily as the citizens of our decaying cities become more concerned with the future quality of their lives.

Total cities have to be designed in America, not by architects expressing their creativity on a building-by-building basis, but by city planners skilled in the design of man-machine systems.

A stroll through the city of tomorrow would take us through flora and parks where children will be seen playing. We would see cultural centers featuring large areas devoted to the arts and music, with people attending these attractions without payment or tickets of any kind. What would be startling to a person of today would be the sparse population and the strange silence over the city.

Since the planned cities of tomorrow will be radial, there will be radial conveyors to move people to and from the central core to the outer ring, and circular conveyors to transport them around each ring. As the radial conveyors carry a person outward, he

would pass over crystal clear lakes and streams, and through forests of flowers and dark greenery.

The new technology would startle today's person. Giant production centers, operated by a social integrator, will silently form and shape all the products required for human needs. Voice-actuated devices of all sorts will act as electronic slaves for all citizens. The new leisure will allow people to spend most of their time in education, travel, and adventure.

Symposiums on world affairs will be held at vast domed centers designed to house super-intelligent computers with three-dimensional displays. The control centers will be capable of making optimum decisions on billions of simultaneous events in fractions of a second.

Time has no respect for individuals or cultures. The bio-social forces that shape the future are lawful. The future, like the present, is the result of the primary forces of the space-time continuum.

It is happening. It is important that we be ready for it.

If you feel that your rate of speech is a little fast, here is an exercise that should slow you down. Read the following sentence at your normal rate, but insert the number one between each word:

She (one) is (one) going (one) to (one) the (one) movies (one) today.

Now repeat the exercise, but this time do not recite the number one out loud, but "think" it. It may feel a bit frustrating, but if you tenaciously

practice a few random sentences like these for an hour a day, you definitely will modify your old behavior patterns. It takes patience and work, but you will succeed in becoming a slower, more deliberate, speaker, with the added bonus of more authority in your voice.

If your speech rate is too slow, time yourself while reading the following sentence. Then read it again against the clock. Don't worry about a little bit of sloppiness. If at first you took fifty seconds to read, see if you can achieve it in thirty-five seconds. This exercise should raise your awareness of the differences in speech rate. Here is a good paragraph for increasing your rate:

To become a "perfect" person it is currently the fashion to get in touch with your feelings. Also, it is imperative that you scream, encounter, rolf, meditate, follow your stars, let it all hang out, lay back, and desensitize yourself. And on top of it all, you had better keep up with the endless flow of How To — books, with titles such as *How to Soothe Your Shattered Nerves, How To Be Free in an Uptight World, and How To Let Your Neurosis Work For You.*

You have surely noticed by now that our readings have become more than mere word exercises. They deal now with ideas — about science, technology, and the future. For the purpose of the course, whether you agree or not with the premise presented is not important. What is important to you is that you are learning to express ideas, forcibly and convincingly.

Here is a short discussion on the scientific method, also taken from *"Is There Intelligent Life on Earth?"*, which I want you to read into your tape recorder as if you were addressing a large audience. Then compare your recitation with mine. I have italicized those portions which I feel should be emphasized.

Respect for science by the younger generation is rapidly diminished by the distorted view of scientists presented in Hollywood movies, TV, and the science fiction literature which is *all fiction and little science.* In the movies scientists spend most of their time in labs rubbing their hands and staring with bulging eyeballs, surrounded by electronic gadgets, from high-voltage condensers discharging static sparks to computer read-outs making "futuristic" noise.

Most lay people have only *a hazy notion* of what research scientists do. Scientists are often *social,* even *gregarious,* beings. The world of science is a place of *intelligence* and *ambition,* of people who want to do well at their work and be respected by their peers for it. In that respect, they are much like the rest of us. But the stakes in scientific research are *high,* and the rewards can be *greater.* And in a world of job dissatisfaction, they appear to enjoy their work, where they are usually engaged in the humdrum work of checking, measuring, and acquiring information related to the quantities and qualities of phenomena.

In chemistry, much of the work is rote in purifying materials, checking spectra, breaking down chemicals, synthesizing new ones, deducing molecular structures, and blending substances into mixtures with special properties. In astronomy,

most of it involves sky-mapping with the use of optical and radio telescopes. Physics is a lot of tedious work, collecting data related to sub-atomic particles and nuclear structures. Geologists are constantly accumulating data related to the structure, composition, and fossil content of rocks, and age-dating and recording geological histories. They are also involved in the study of metals, minerals, and fossil fuel deposits. As dull as it may appear, *this is the stuff from* which most scientific achievement is born.

Even if you don't agree with the premise of that last recitation, I want you to sound as if you do. It may take twenty tries until you can deliver it cleanly, with conviction and power. You must learn to become personally involved with *what* you say, as well as *how* you say it.

After you have achieved that, I would like to extend my congratulations on your brilliant achievement in hurdling all the obstacles I have set in your path up to now.

Yes, "*what* is said" may be more important than "*how* it is said" — that was the reason for assigning you the reading of the essay on science. But *what* is said always comes across more convincingly when it is skillfully communicated.

* * * * * *

Here are a few tongue-twisters, difficult even for the average American, so do not despair if you find them tough going at first. Stay with it until you get them right. I would suggest also that you memorize them — they can be very impressive to your friends and, as you shall see,

quite difficult even for native Americans to execute without a slip. The trick is to concentrate on *what* you're saying, not on the mechanics of slick articulation.

She stood on the balcony inexplicably mimicking him hiccuping and amicably welcoming him in.

Are you copper-bottoming 'em, my man? No'm, I'm aluminiuming (AL-yOO-*MiN*-EE-ΣM-EE-NG) 'em, mum.

The sixth shiek's sixth sheep's sick.

Theophilus Thistle, the successful thistle sifter, in sifting a sieve full of unsifted thistles, thrust three thousand thistles through the thick of his thumb. Now, if Theophilus Thistle, the successful thistle sifter, in sifting a sieve full of unsifted thistles, thrust three thousand thistles through the thick of *his* thumb, see that thou, in sifting a sieve full of unsifted thistles, thrust *not* three thousand thistles through the thick of *thy* thumb.

Please record those tongue-twisters on your own tape and compare them with mine.

* * * * * *

We have come to the end of the course. I want you to keep in mind that erasing your accent is a continuing process; you must assign at least an hour a day for practice. Now, as I bid you good-bye, I wish you the best of luck in your future undertakings.

Jack Catran

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Jack Catran is a scientist with many years of experience. As a consultant to leading aerospace corporations, he participated in the Apollo program and other major U.S. space shots, where he specialized in the design of life support and man-machine systems. He has conducted extensive research on the use of computer-generated graphics in intelligence communication systems, automated teaching devices, and programmed learning. Language, phonics, and the science of verbal behavior has always interested him deeply. This book is a labor of love.

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